



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COLLOQUIUM, OCTOBER 22ND

**Save the Date – October 22nd, 2014: Domestic Violence Awareness - Immigration Colloquium
Recognition for Elba Montalvo Entrepreneurship/IT Conference of September 15, 2014**

Dialogue on Diversity, having concluded the annual Entrepreneurship and Information Technology Conference in mid-September, is moving ahead with detailed planning for the October 22nd presentation of the Domestic Violence Awareness and Immigration Colloquium, this year scheduled for the Gold Room at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

The DV Colloquium agenda brings into focus a cluster of themes that characterize the causes, the extent of incidence, the range of harms, and the potential remedies for the varieties of domestic abuse. That of spouses or partners against one another, abuse and neglect of children, the decay of youthful romance into sadistic exploitation and abuse; the mind-boggling evil of trafficking, basically of adolescents and young persons, both for forced labor and sex purposes; and such cultural practices as child marriage, forced marriage, the prevalence of legal and social mores blaming the victim of rapes and like abuses, all



difficult for American courts and civil society organizations to tolerate in the name of cultural autonomy (although it is a frequent occurrence that U.S. prosecutors and courts have brought criminal proceedings against teen-age girls trafficked into forced prostitution! – another, home-grown variety of blame-the-victim – a practice fortunately coming to be being barred by statute in a number of States). The Colloquium agenda features Anna Martinez, senior policy advisor to the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women, now detailed to the White House Office of the Domestic Violence "Czar" Lynn Rosenthal. HHS officials tasked with combating DV will outline the inventory of medically and psychologically cognizable harms flowing from the incidence of domestic abuse. Civil society groups specialized in sheltering DV victims

and softening the trauma of violence and flight from the abusing household, will review their battery of aids, relief, and a panoply of effective strategies for curing the damage.

The federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), whose initial passage was engineered in the Congress through the efforts of then Sen. Joseph Biden, provided an array of legally enforceable preventive measures and remedies for abuse, this in the presence at that time of a pattern of weak or fragmentary state laws on these matters. The VAWA was re-authorized a year ago with a series of additions broadening, among other points, protections among immigrants and Native Americans residing in reservations. The anniversary of its enactment is the occasion each year for a happy but solemn observance of the achievement, hosted by the same Joseph Biden, now Vice President. Dialogue on Diversity is regularly represented at this event by Dialogue President Ma. Cristina Caballero (see the attached photograph of Ms. Caballero with the Vice President). This year's evening was an especially somber one for the guests and especially for the Vice President, whose impassioned remarks on the calamitous Blitzkrieg through parts of the Middle East by the fanatical band that seems a contemporary reincarnation of the mediaeval cult of the Hasshashiyuna (from which the modern word assassin is supposedly derived) – well expressed the startled outrage felt globally at the spectacle, which, among its other effects, imposes grievous disabilities on the women and girls in its path.

The Domestic Violence colloquium is a brief but concentrated program, ending with a segment on immigration, which is intricately linked in its rules and effects with the incidence of domestic abuse in migrant circles, that which is often dealt with by the diverse Latino and other ethnicities that are the special concern of Dialogue on Diversity. Discussions will take up the basic theorem expressing the established outlook within the American political establishment: that the influx of migrants is a burden imposed on U.S. society and that the optimum number of arrivals would be zero, or at any rate, only the small number of uniquely gifted individual figures worthy of reception on these shores. It is argued, to the contrary, however, that a population influx is stimulative of economic activity and is moreover, culturally desirable – not a fence, in this view, but a welcome center should be erected on the banks of the Rio Grande.

ELBA MONTALVO, Founder and long-time President of the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, was honored September 23rd in a luncheon at the Edison Hotel in New York. Her work over a quarter of a century has redounded to the benefit of families in need in New York and farther field. The recognition ceremony was co-chaired by Hon. Rita di Martino, a member of Dialogue on Diversity's National Advisory Committee, and was attended as a guest by Dialogue President Ma. Cristina Caballero.

The recently completed Entrepreneurship/IT program, held in the Edison Place Gallery in the Pepco building in downtown Washington, was built on the dual themes of [1] the displacement over a matter of several decades of the operating infrastructures of vast numbers of American business enterprises, the agent of the change being the many-faceted onrush of Information Technology and [2] the special virtues of technological understanding and a resilience of temperament in the entrepreneur who is to be successful in the whirlwind of change. Successive Panels took up the shape of IT in its pervasive influence on business structures and modes of working, the patterns of change as the old is preserved in the transforming onset of the new in methods, techniques,



Jason Llorenz Ruth Yodaiken
Ana Roca-Castro Joseph S. Miller

and strategies; and the prosaic needs for a carefully structured business plan and a judiciously chosen form for the business organization and an exact specification at the outset of the interests and duties of the several principals coming together in the firm. The program included an essential review of the education, both formal and instilled from experience, of the complete entrepreneur, and finally some instruction in the potentials of foreign trade and a quick course in the rigmarole of small disadvantaged business preferences in government contracting.



Euri Cerrud, Esq. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak,
Ma. Cristina Caballero, Keith Sellars

concepts substantially remaking the business and the health care landscapes in America. Dr. Butler, of the Brookings Institution, led off the lunch session with a package of seminal ideas on the essence of the small

The midday session brought Dr. Stuart Butler, a notably influential in England nearly two score years ago and has generated innovative business project in the legal and political climate of the day – one suggestion, for example, being that the drag on small business activity could be significantly reduced by simplifying and speeding a vast number of petty procedures that businesses are obliged to undertake – zoning variances, permits for construction work of various kinds, etc. The lunch session then heard from Mr. Frank Torres, Microsoft's Director of Consumer Affairs, on the remarkable speed and amplitude of development in the IT realm, and the implications of these effects on the needs for privacy, a massive concern in the face of the ubiquitous data gathering, and profile making, based on detailed personal knowledge on millions of subjects, constantly carried on by

both commercial and governmental agencies. A reception followed in the Gallery, enlivened by the engaging melodies of the tireless D.C. Mariachi, a combo of four players, outfitted in the de rigueur black, richly bespangled garb of the classic Mariachi. Photo: Mariachi players, and a few reception guests.



Dr. Stuart Butler, Ma. Cristina Caballero, Frank Torres

